


**III. Remarks**

Claims 1-3, 6, 10, 15-16, and 18 are original. Claims 4-5, 7-9, 11-14, 17, and 19 have been amended. Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

Claims 4-5, 7-9, 11-14, 17, and 19 have been amended in a preliminary amendment in advance of substantive examination of the claims. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter has been added. Consideration and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gilberto M. Villacorta, PH.D.  
Registration No. 34,038

Patent Administrator  
KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN  
525 West Monroe Street, Suite 1600  
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693  
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061